

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- See a1*
1. A method for modulating behavioral and neurological adaptive responsiveness to stress including anxiety comprising the step of applying to the brain or central nervous system a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor to the DP IV enzyme whereby enzymatic activity of said enzyme is reduced.
  2. A method for reducing degradation of the endogenous, CNS-localized neuropeptide Y (NPY) and other substrates sharing similar properties comprising the step of providing to the site where such degradation is desired a therapeutically effective amount of a competitive inhibitor of the dipeptidyl peptidase (DP IV or CD 26) or of DP IV - like enzyme.
  3. The method of claim 1 wherein application of said inhibitors results in therapy of psychosomatic, depressive and neuropsychiatric diseases selected from the group consisting of anxiety disorders, depression, insomnia, chronic fatigue, schizophrenia, epilepsy, eating disorders, spasm and chronic pain.
  4. The method of claims 1 and 2 wherein said inhibitors will be present in a physiologically compatible drug delivery vehicle.
  5. The method of claims 1, 2 and 3 wherein said inhibitors are formulated as prodrugs of the free inhibitors.
  6. The method of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 wherein said DP IV-inhibitors are applied parenterally, enterally, orally, by inhalation or suppository.

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